

TARGET MAINS 2022

CURRENT AFFAIRS

SOCIAL ISSUES-1



Practice question

Topics under discussion

1. Old Age issues ✓
2. Urbanization policy ✓✓
3. Poverty ✓✓
4. State Health Index ✓✓
5. Women's marriage age ✓✓

#1

✓ better healthcare
care
✓ making req ↓



THE HINDU

f t in

MENU

TODAY'S PAPER NEWS OPINION BUSINESS SPORT ENTERTAINMENT CROSSWORD+ SC

OPINION CARTOON COLUMNS EDITORIAL INTERVIEW LEAD READERS' EDITOR

OPINION > COMMENT

COMMENT

A new vision for old age care

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of The Hindu website. The 'OPINION' tab is highlighted. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb 'OPINION > COMMENT' is visible. The main content area displays a comment titled 'A new vision for old age care'. A yellow circle highlights the title, and a yellow arrow points from the 'INTERVIEW' tab in the navigation bar to the title. Handwritten yellow notes at the top of the image provide context: 'better healthcare care' and 'making req ↓'.

non tax payers!

Share of elderly in the population

UN World Population Ageing Report - India's ageing population (those aged 60 and above) is projected to increase to nearly 20% by 2050 from about 8% now. By 2050, the percentage of elderly people will increase by 326%, with those aged 80 years and above set to increase by 700%, making them the fastest-growing age group in India.

A major reason for the steady growth of the elderly population has been the dramatic rise in life expectancy aided by sustained periods of economic growth and enhanced access to healthcare facilities.

Share of elderly in the population

34

World Population Ageing 2019: Highlights

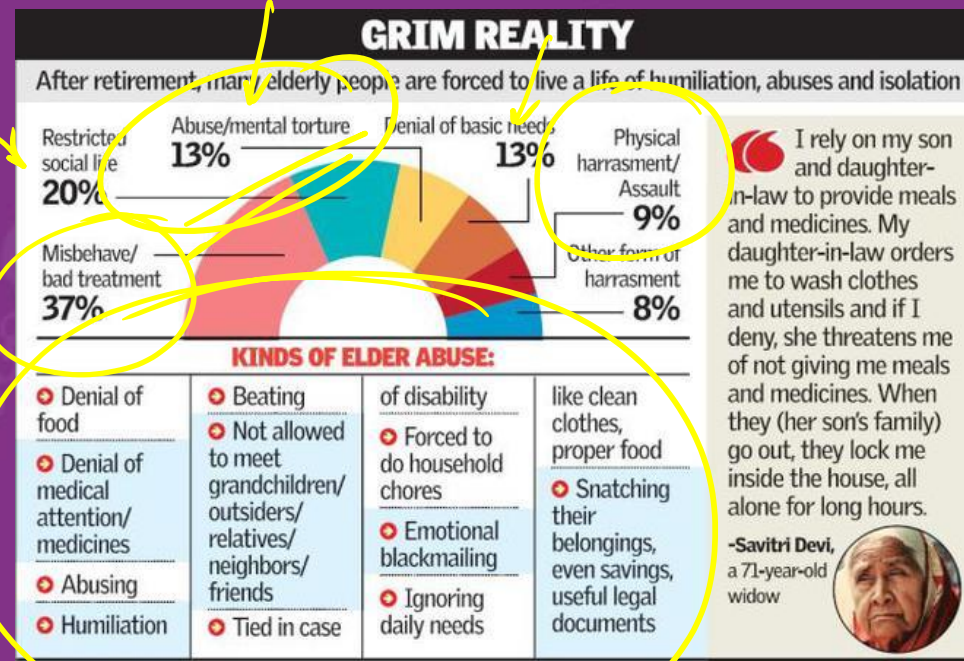
Region, development group country or area	Population aged 65 years or over (thousands)		Percentage aged 65 years or over		Old-age dependency ratio (65+ /20-64) ^a		Prospective old-age dependency ratio ^b		Economic old-age dependency ratio ^c	
	2019	2030	2019	2030	2019	2030	2019	2030	2019	2030
Timor-Leste	55	78	4.3	5.0	9.2	9.8	11.0	10.8	12.5	13.0
Viet Nam	7 286	12 446	7.6	11.9	12.1	20.0	7.4	10.6	11.3	19.4
Southern Asia	115 255	172 124	6.0	8.0	10.6	13.5	10.9	12.6	13.2	16.5
Afghanistan	995	1 508	2.6	3.1	6.1	6.3	8.2	7.9	5.9	6.0
Bangladesh	8 446	13 332	5.2	7.4	8.9	12.1	8.1	8.5	9.3	12.6
Bhutan	47	66	6.1	7.8	10.3	12.3	7.3	7.5	11.6	13.5
India	87 149	128 877	6.4	8.6	11.0	14.1	11.5	13.5	14.1	17.8
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	5 272	8 849	6.4	9.6	10.2	15.8	9.3	12.0	14.1	20.8
Maldives	19	35	3.6	6.7	5.1	9.9	4.1	5.2	7.9	14.4
Nepal	1 654	2 362	5.8	7.1	10.8	11.6	12.4	11.7	12.8	13.1
Pakistan	9 361	13 697	4.3	5.2	8.5	9.8	9.6	10.6	9.2	10.4
Sri Lanka	2 311	3 397	10.8	15.4	18.9	27.4	13.7	18.0	19.9	29.2
Western Asia	15 716	25 237	5.7	7.9	9.9	13.5	7.8	9.2	10.8	14.5
Armenia	340	501	11.5	16.9	18.5	29.2	16.4	22.5	19.8	29.8
Azerbaijan*	648	1 266	6.4	11.8	10.1	19.6	10.5	17.8	10.9	20.3
Bahrain	41	112	2.5	5.6	3.4	7.7	3.0	5.5	4.0	9.1

Old age homes – a new normal

The OAHs are a consequence of the emergence of the nuclear family system. Even at times, elders feel comfortable in OAHs for the freedom and friendly atmosphere with other elders who keep them company, enjoying the time by interacting with each other.

These OAHs, however, do not always provide good facilities, not all elders are taken care of well by the management, some of them impose restrictions.

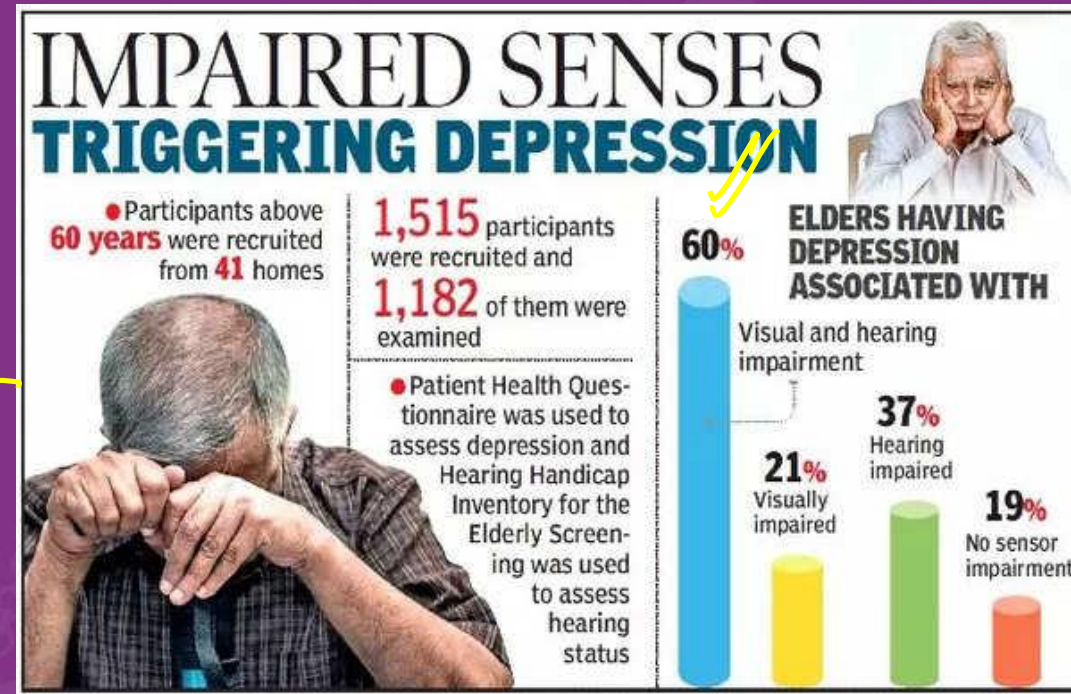
Low quality food, lack of sanitation, financial discrepancies, abuse, etc. are a norm here.





Connection b/w physical & mental health

- A recent study titled Hyderabad Ocular Morbidity in Elderly Study (HOMES) conducted by a Hyderabad based not-for-profit organisation reveals that about 30% of the residents who were part of the study (over 1,500 participants from 40 homes) had a vision impairment of some sort.
- The study found some 'unseen' effects of vision impairment; many were prone to depression. In fact, those with both vision and hearing impairment had a rate of depression that was five times higher than those without.
- People with functional skills are asked to stay away from daily tasks like cooking, sewing, cleaning, or washing up. This reduces their sociability, their sense of independence and well-being — all leading up to mental health issues and depression.





Suggested steps

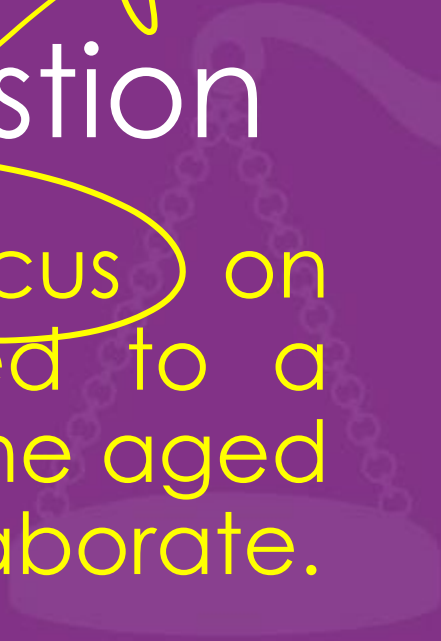
- Basic Health Screening Facilities ✓✓
- Role of Health Institutions ✓✓
- Policy Interventions
- Geriatric Healthcare Facilities: According to a study by Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, there is no specialised training in geriatrics in most medical schools.
- Ensuring Elderly Inclusive Society ✓✓



Practice Question

Lack of *policy focus* on geriatric care has led to a *plethora* of issues for the aged population in India. Elaborate.

many



#2

Home / Opinion / Columns / Why India needs an urbanisation policy

Premium

Why India needs an urbanisation policy

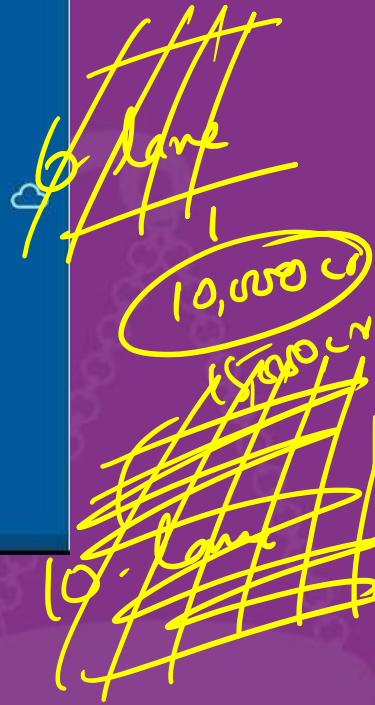
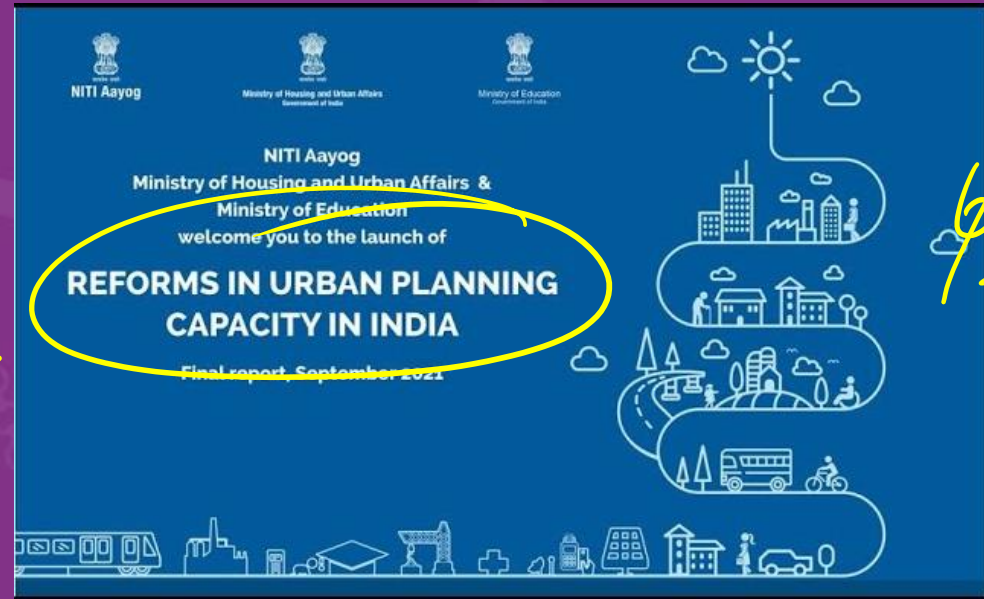
Durga Shanker Mishra, O P Agarwal write: A policy is needed to guide the planning and management of cities towards enabling India's growth ambitions and also giving its residents a good quality of life, in a sustainable manner.

Recently, NITI Aayog launched a Report on Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India to discuss why India needs an urbanisation policy.

Sanitation
Plums
Traffic
substantial info
10-12

Report Summary

- **Global Urban Population:** India is home to 11% of the total global urban population. By 2027, India will surpass China as the most populous country in the world. The Covid-19 pandemic has revealed the dire need for the planning and management of our cities.
- **Spatial Sustainability:** 65 percent of the 7,933 urban settlements do not have any master plan.
- **India:** From a population of 377 million in 2011, Indian cities are projected to house 870 million people by 2050, according to the UN's projections — by far the highest among all nations.
- **Several Recommendations:** Every city must aspire to become a 'Healthy City for All' by 2030. These imperatives are fundamental to India's ambitions of becoming a five trillion-dollar economy by 2025 and a 10 trillion-dollar economy by 2030.
- **Three-fold Vision:** Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self Reliant India), Vocal for local, USD5 trillion economy by 2025





Challenges faced by cities

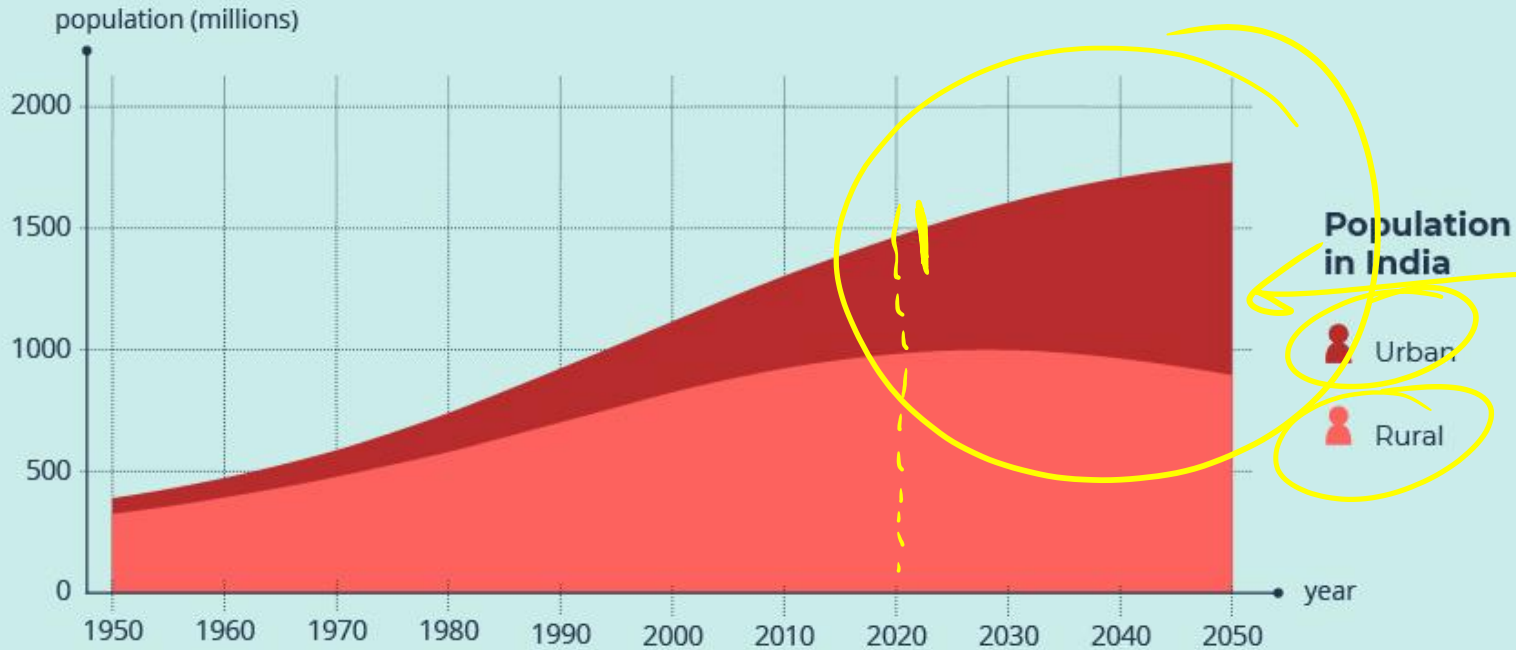
- **Affordable Housing:** Almost one-sixth of the urban population lives in slums.
- **Water Supply & Waste Management:** Water supply is unreliable. Mountains of solid waste sit on the fringes of our cities. Poor drainage, congested roads and deteriorating air quality are other challenges.
- **Poor Urban Planning**
- **Lack of Coordination:** Between urban and rural planning and development. The 'State Town and country planning acts' need to be revisited to harmonise the two.
- **Funding**
- **Migrant Crisis**

Suggestions in the report

- **Programmatic Intervention for Planning of Healthy Cities:** The report recommends a Central Sector Scheme '500 Healthy Cities Programme', for a period of 5 years.
- **Programmatic Intervention for Optimum Utilization of Urban Land:** The report recommends a sub-scheme 'Preparation/Revision of Development Control Regulations' for this purpose.
- **Ramping Up of Human Resources:** expedite the filling up of vacant positions of town planners, and additionally sanction 8268 town planners' posts as lateral entry positions for a minimum period of 3 years and a maximum of 5 years to meet the gaps.
- **Ensuring Qualified Professionals for Undertaking Urban Planning**
- **Re-engineering of Urban Governance**
- **Revision of Town and Country Planning Acts**
- **Steps for Enhancing the Role of Private Sector**
- **Steps for Strengthening Urban Planning Education System:** Faculty shortage in educational institutions conducting degree and PhD programmes in planning need to be resolved in a time bound manner by 2022.

Smart cities
Municipalities

Urban and Rural Population in India



Source: UN DESA, Urban and Rural Population India (2018)
World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision, custom data acquired via website



Practice Question

Urbanization has often been seen as an indication of a prosperous economy. However, in India's case it is accompanied with many issues.
Comment.

Smart cities

Lucknow

Bhubaneswar

MGNREGA - 33% jobs
women

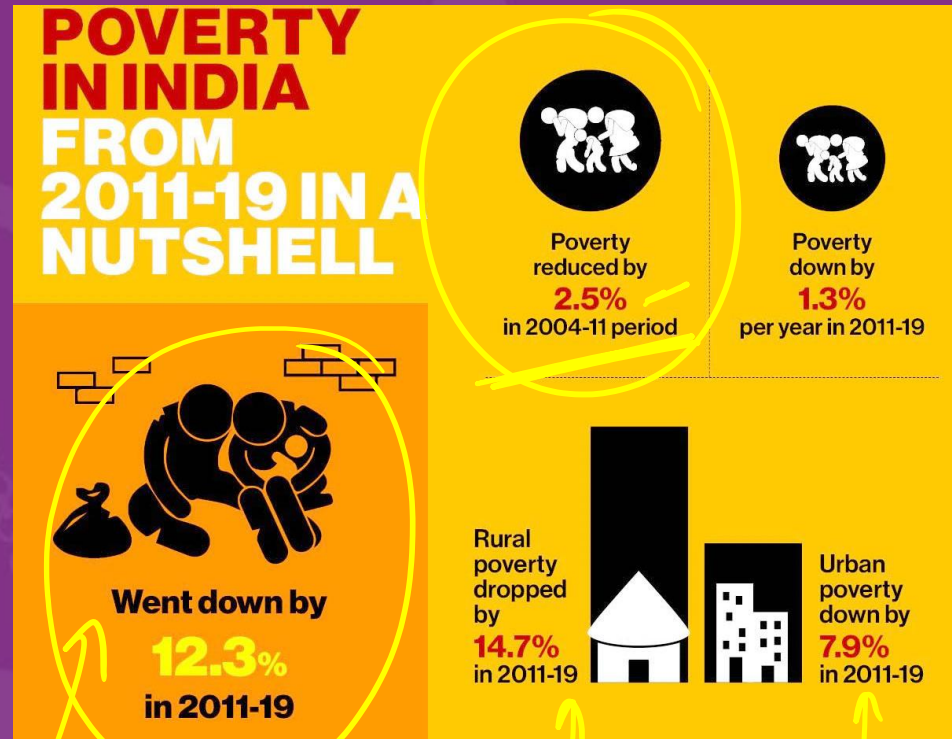
[Home](#) / [India News](#) / Extreme poverty dipped in India: World Bank report

INDIA NEWS

Extreme poverty dipped in India: World Bank report

Poverty reduction was higher in rural areas compared with urban India as rural poverty declined from 26.3% in 2011 to 11.6% in 2019, while in urban areas the decline was from 14.2% to 6.3% in the corresponding period

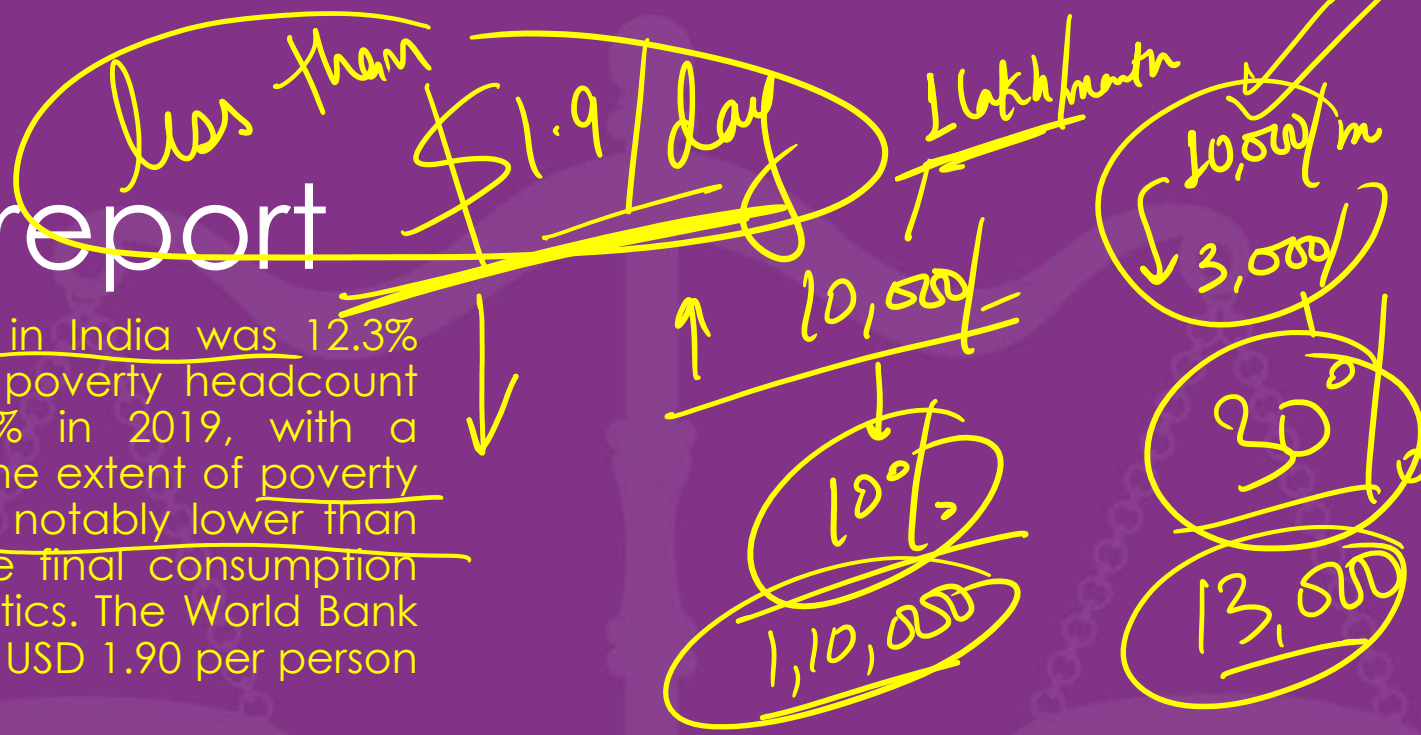
- Recently, the World Bank published the paper titled 'Poverty has Declined over the Last Decade But Not As Much As Previously Thought' ✓
- The paper came close on the heels of a working paper published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) saying India has almost eradicated extreme poverty and brought down consumption inequality to its lowest levels in 40 years through state-funded food handouts (Public Distribution System).





Highlights of the report

- Decline in Extreme Poverty:** Extreme poverty in India was 12.3% points lower in 2019 compared with 2011, as poverty headcount rate declined from 22.5% in 2011 to 10.2% in 2019, with a comparatively sharper decline in rural areas. The extent of poverty reduction during 2015-2019 is estimated to be notably lower than earlier projections based on growth in private final consumption expenditure reported in national account statistics. The World Bank defines "extreme poverty" as living on less than USD 1.90 per person per day.
- Rural vs Urban Poverty:** Poverty reduction was higher in rural areas compared with urban India as rural poverty declined from 26.3% in 2011 to 11.6% in 2019, while in urban areas the decline was from 14.2% to 6.3% in the corresponding period. Rural and urban poverty dropped by 14.7 and 7.9% points during 2011-2019.
- Small Farmers:** Smallholder farmers have experienced higher income growth. Real incomes for farmers with the smallest landholdings have grown by 10% in annualized terms between the two survey rounds (2013 and 2019) compared to a 2% growth for farmers with the largest landholding. The growth in incomes of smallest landholders in rural areas provides more evidence of moderation in income disparity in rural areas.



Significance of the report

- The World Bank's paper is significant as India has no official estimation of recent periods. The last expenditure survey was released in 2011 by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), when the country had also released official estimates of poverty and inequality.
- It sheds light on how poverty and inequality have evolved since 2011 using a new household panel survey, the Consumer Pyramids Household Survey conducted by Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE).

Relative and absolute poverty rose after 2012



Tracking poverty in India from 2005 to 2020

Incidence of Poverty		As per NSS CES data		As per PLFS data
		2004-05	2011-12	2019-20
Poverty Head Count Ratio (%)	Rural	41.8	25.7	30.5
	Urban	25.7	13.7	15.5
	Total	37.2	21.9	25.9
Number of poor (Million)	Rural	325.8	216.7	270
	Urban	81.4	53.1	71
	Total	407.2	269.8	348
Tendulkar Poverty Line (MPCE in ₹) All India	Rural	₹446.68	₹816	₹1,217.96
	Urban	₹578.8	₹1,000	₹1,467

Poverty alleviation programs

- Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) ✓
- Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana ✓
- National Old Age Pension Scheme ✓
- Annapurna Scheme ✓
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005 ✓
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) ✓
- National Urban Livelihood Mission ✓
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

UBI
Rs. 1500/-

Practice Question

Discuss the underlying factors behind the prevalence of large scale poverty in India over the decades. Why have multiple government initiatives been unsuccessful in resolving this problem?



NITI Aayog Releases Fourth Edition of State Health Index

Maximum annual incremental performance shown by UP, Assam and Telangana among 'Larger States'; Mizoram & Meghalaya among 'Smaller States'; Delhi and J&K among 'UTs'

Health Index is an example of both competitive and cooperative federalism: VC Dr Rajiv Kumar

- NITI Aayog has released the fourth edition of the State Health Index for 2019–20.
- The report, titled “Healthy States, Progressive India”, ranks states and Union Territories on their year-on-year incremental performance in health outcomes as well as their overall status.
- Earlier, the Global Health Security (GHS) Index 2021, developed in partnership by the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Center was released. India, with a score of 42.8 (out of 100) has slipped by 0.8 points since 2019.



State Health Index

The State Health Index is an annual tool to assess the performance of states and UTs, which has been compiled and published since 2017. It is a weighted composite index based on 24 indicators grouped under the domains of 'Health Outcomes', 'Governance and Information', and 'Key Inputs/Processes'. ✓

Developed By: NITI Aayog, with technical assistance from the World Bank, and in close consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

Ranking of the states

To ensure comparison among similar entities, the ranking is categorized as:

Larger States: UP, Assam and Telangana are the top three ranking states.

Smaller States: Mizoram and Meghalaya registered the maximum annual incremental progress.

Union Territories: Delhi, followed by Jammu and Kashmir, showed the best incremental performance.

Overall: The top-ranking states were Kerala and Tamil Nadu among the 'Larger States', Mizoram and Tripura among the 'Smaller States', and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (DH&DD) and Chandigarh among the UTs.

Incremental Performance

1,000
100
10-12%
10%
10%

SCORECARD

Top 5

Rank	2018-19*	2019-20*
1	Kerala ✓	Kerala ✓
2	Andhra Pradesh ✓	Tamil Nadu ✓
3	Tamil Nadu ✓	Telangana ✓
4	Himachal Pradesh ✓	Andhra Pradesh ✓
5	Maharashtra ✓	Maharashtra ✓

Bottom 4**

Rank	2018-19*	2019-20*
1	UP ✓	UP ✓
2	Bihar ✓	Bihar ✓
3	MP ✓	MP ✓
4	Jharkhand ✓	Rajasthan ✓

*According to Reference Year
**In ascending order (Lowest first)



Significance

- Policymaking ✓✓
- Healthy Competition ✓✓✓
- Helpful in Achieving SDGs ✓✓✓
- Role in National Health Mission ✓✓✓

Limitations of the Index:

Not Covered Critical Areas: Some critical areas such as infectious diseases, noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), mental health, governance, and financial risk protection are not fully captured.

Limited Data: For outcome indicators, such as Neonatal Mortality Rate, Under-five Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Ratio and Sex Ratio at Birth, data are available only for Larger States.

Without any Field Verification: For several indicators, Health Management Information System (HMIS) data and programme data were used without any field verification due to the lack of feasibility of conducting independent field surveys.

Practice Question

By investing in public health infrastructure, the government will only strengthen its commitment towards achieving a \$5 trillion economy in the near future. Elaborate.

health → *economy*



#5

PMS

LSV

Committee

Home / Opinion / Columns / Raising women's marriage age to 21 is move towards empowerment

Raising women's marriage age to 21 is move towards empowerment

● Guru Prakash, Ruchi Singh write: No excuse — biological, social, or data and research-based — can justify the inequality in age between men and women to enter into a valid marriage

21
18

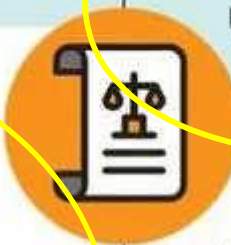
- The Union Cabinet passed the proposal for bringing uniformity in the marriageable age of men and women to realise Goal 5 of the SDGs which asks nation-states to formulate policies to achieve gender equality.



Marriageable age in India

- **The Current Laws:** For Hindus, The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, sets 18 years as the minimum age of marriage for the bride and 21 years as the minimum age for the groom. In Islam, the marriage of a minor who has attained puberty is considered valid. The Special Marriage Act, 1954 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 also prescribe 18 and 21 years as the minimum age of consent for marriage for women and men respectively.
- **India's Efforts for Reducing Gender Gap:** India had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1993. Article 16 of this Convention strictly forbids child marriage and asks governments to identify and enforce the minimum marriage age for women.
- **Reasons behind the Minimum Age:** The law prescribes a minimum age of marriage to essentially outlaw child marriages and prevent the abuse of minors. Child marriages expose women to early pregnancy, malnutrition, and violence (mental, emotional, and physical).

TO OVERRIDE ALL OTHER LAWS & CUSTOMS



- Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 proposes to raise legal age for women to marry from 18 to 21, on a par with men
- Seeks to amend other laws for uniformity in age of marriage – Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872; Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936; Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937; Special Marriage Act, 1954
- Hindu Marriage Act, 1955; Foreign Marriage Act, 1969
- Anyone married before the age of 21 can seek annulment up to 5 years instead of the current 2 from the time of attaining majority
- Amendments to override all other laws, customs, usage or practice
- Bill to come into force 2 years from the date it receives President's assent



Arguments for increasing the minimum age

- Protection of Basic Rights
- Bringing Gender Parity: Section 2(a) of the Special Marriage Act declares legal marriageable age women as 18 while for men this age is 21, the difference seems to have no justifiable logic when voting age is also the same.
- Equal Laws Emanate Equality
- Facilitating Women Empowerment
- Schemes like UJJAWALA, Mudra Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana have shown women as the largest section of beneficiaries of government schemes.

56% OF WOMEN MARRY BETWEEN 18 & 21

Age Group	Rural	Urban	Total
All ages	25.5	12.1	37.6
18-19 years	10.6	3.1	7.5
20-21	4.9	2.6	21.2
18-21	15.5 (61%)	5.7(47%)	21.2 (56%)

Figures in million (in brackets are % of totals)
Source: Figures for 5 years preceding Census, 2011

MINIMUM AGE FOR MARRIAGE IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

None	Less than 14 years	18 years	21 years
Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Djibouti	Sudan (puberty), Lebanon (9), Iran (13)	143 countries, including India	20 countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria



WHY NUTRITION AND EDUCATION ARE FACTORS TOO

CHART 1: MEAN AGE AT MARRIAGE IN 2017

Andhra Pradesh	22
Assam	22.3
Bihar	21.8
Chhattisgarh	21.8
Delhi	23.7
Gujarat	22.5
Haryana	22.5
Himachal	23.4
Jammu & Kashmir	25.1
Jharkhand	21.9
Karnataka	22.3
Kerala	23.2
Madhya Pradesh	21.4
Maharashtra	22.5
Odisha	21.9
Punjab	23.5
Rajasthan	21.5
Tamil Nadu	23
Telangana	22
Uttar Pradesh	22.2
Uttarakhand	22.3
West Bengal	21.2
ALL INDIA	22.1

Source: Women and Men in India 2019, MOSPI

CHART 2: WOMEN MARRIED BEFORE AGE 18 (%)

1992-93:	54.2
1998-99:	50
2005-06:	47.4
2015-16:	26.8

Source: NFHS

CHART 3: ANAEMIC WOMEN AGED 15-49 (%)

1998-99:	51.8
2005-06:	55.3
2015-16:	53.1

Source: NFHS

CHART 4: INFANT & MATERNAL MORTALITY, 2017

Country	IMR	MMR
Brazil	12.8	60
China	7.4	29
India	29.9	145
S Africa	28.5	119
Russia	6.1	17

Source: UN Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group, and the United Nations Population Division

CHART 5: WEALTH & MARRIAGE AGE

Wealth quintile	Mean age at marriage
Lowest	17.6
Second	18.2
Middle	18.9
Fourth	20.2
Highest	22.3

Source: NFHS-4

CHART 6: EDUCATION & MARRIAGE AGE

Years of schooling	Age at marriage
No schooling	17.4
>5 years	17.6
5-7 years	18.2
8-9 years	18.9
10-11 years	19.8
12 years+	23

Source: NFHS-4

Data show that less educated girls and those belonging to poorer families tend to get married before age 18.



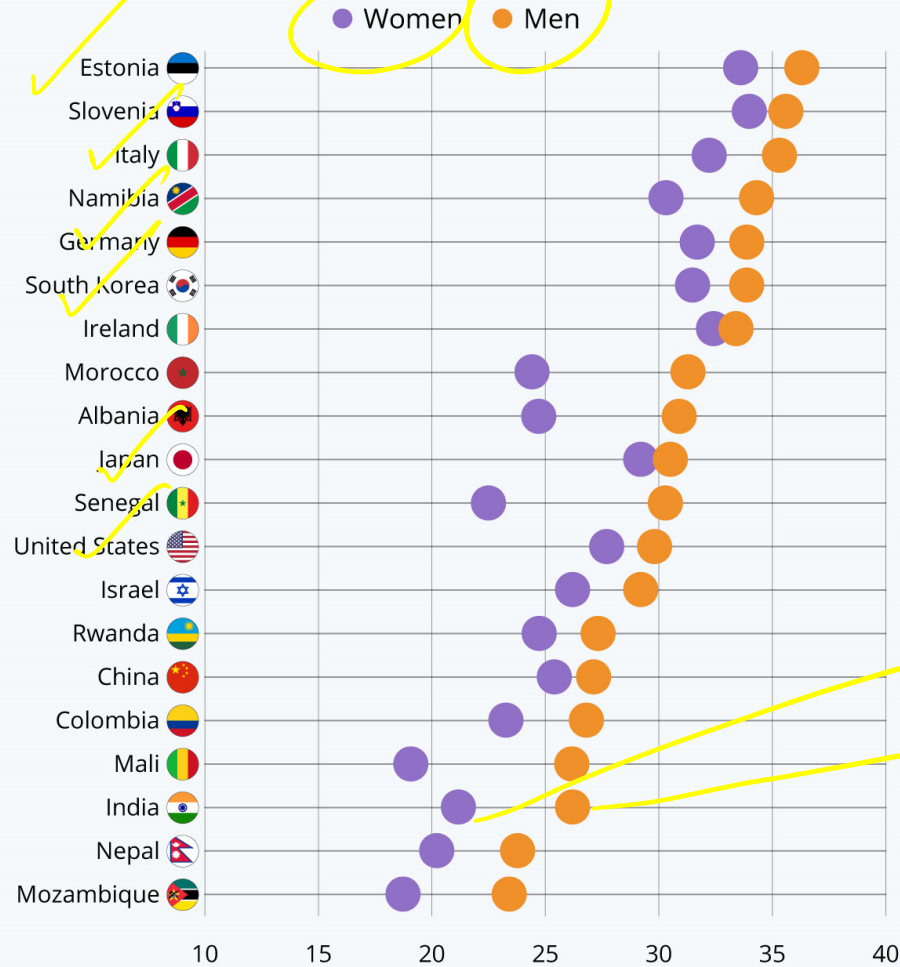
Arguments against increasing age

- Unlikely to Benefit Financially Dependent Women
- **High Prevalence of Child Marriage Despite Stringent Laws:** The law prohibiting marriage below the age of 18 has been in effect in some form since the 1900s, yet child marriage has persisted virtually undeterred until 2005 when almost half of all women aged 20-24 had married below the legal minimum age.
- **No Criminal Records for Early Marriages:** Even though more than one in five marriages took place below age 18, hardly any violations of the Act appear in the criminal records of the country.
- **No Assurance for Eliminating Child Marriages:** The magnitude of the population of women of marriageable age who will be affected is immense, with over 60% marrying before 21.
- Misuse of Laws by Parents



When People Get Married Around the World

Median first marriage age of men and women in selected countries (2018)*



* Or latest available (2015-2017) out of 83 countries/territories where current data exists

Sources: United Nations, U.S. Census Bureau



21
26

Suggestions ✓✓

- **Ensuring Objective Equality:** India decided in 1954 with the Special Marriage Act that age must be one of the basic requisites of a valid marriage. The only flaw was not having equality in this regard which is now being corrected by amending the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006. ✓✓
- **Empowering Disadvantaged Women:** The government must invest far more in addressing issues of equity — measures that will enable the disadvantaged to complete their education, provide career counselling and encourage skilling and job placement.
- **Behavioural change in parents** is also necessary as they ultimately make marriage related decisions for a majority of women.
- **Increasing Awareness among Women:** A good, but not easy, way to achieve the stated objective is to take steps to counsel girls on early pregnancies, and provide them the network to improve their health. ✓✓

Practice Question

Albeit bringing the minimum age of marriage for women ~~is~~ an appreciable step, it would bring little change if not accompanied with a change in behavior. Do you agree? Discuss.

is





Thank you!



